

2030



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**Gambling with the Future:
Legislative Recommendations
& Annual Report of the
Commonwealth Council on Aging
2003-2004**

Recommendations



It is **CRITICAL** that no additional funds be cut from the Virginia Department for the Aging's budget.



Provide an additional **\$1,250,000** in **VITAL** funding each year to be used by local Area Agencies on Aging to provide transportation services.



Allocate an additional **\$1,500,000** in **CRUCIAL** funding per year so that each local Area Agency on Aging can provide Long-Term Care Ombudsman services.



Appropriate the necessary funds to conduct an **ESSENTIAL STUDY** of the impact of Virginia's growing aging population on all state agencies.

The Future Is Aging - and so are You!

- In **2000**, there were **7,078,494** Virginians. Of these, **1,065,642** were age 60 or older, making up approximately **15%** of the population, or about **1 out of every 6** people.¹
- In **2030**, there will be approximately **9,275,101** Virginians. Of these, an estimated **2,258,425** will be age 60 or older, making up almost **25%** of the population, or about **1 out of every 4** people.¹
- The number of Virginians age **85 and older** will **increase dramatically**, with a projected growth rate that will be **five times faster** than the state's total population growth rate. This age group is also the most likely to need aging-related services.¹
- If Virginia does not begin **NOW** to build an infrastructure that can meet the needs of its rapidly growing senior population, more and more people will be unable to receive the assistance they may need in the years that they need it most.

Where will **YOU** be in the year **2030**? Your family and friends? Do you want to grow older in a state that is not prepared to care for its senior citizens? If not, **what are you prepared to do about it?**

¹Figures were taken from "Revisions to the 2000 Census based on Count Question Resolution (CQR) Program" by the Virginia Employment Commission.

Transportation



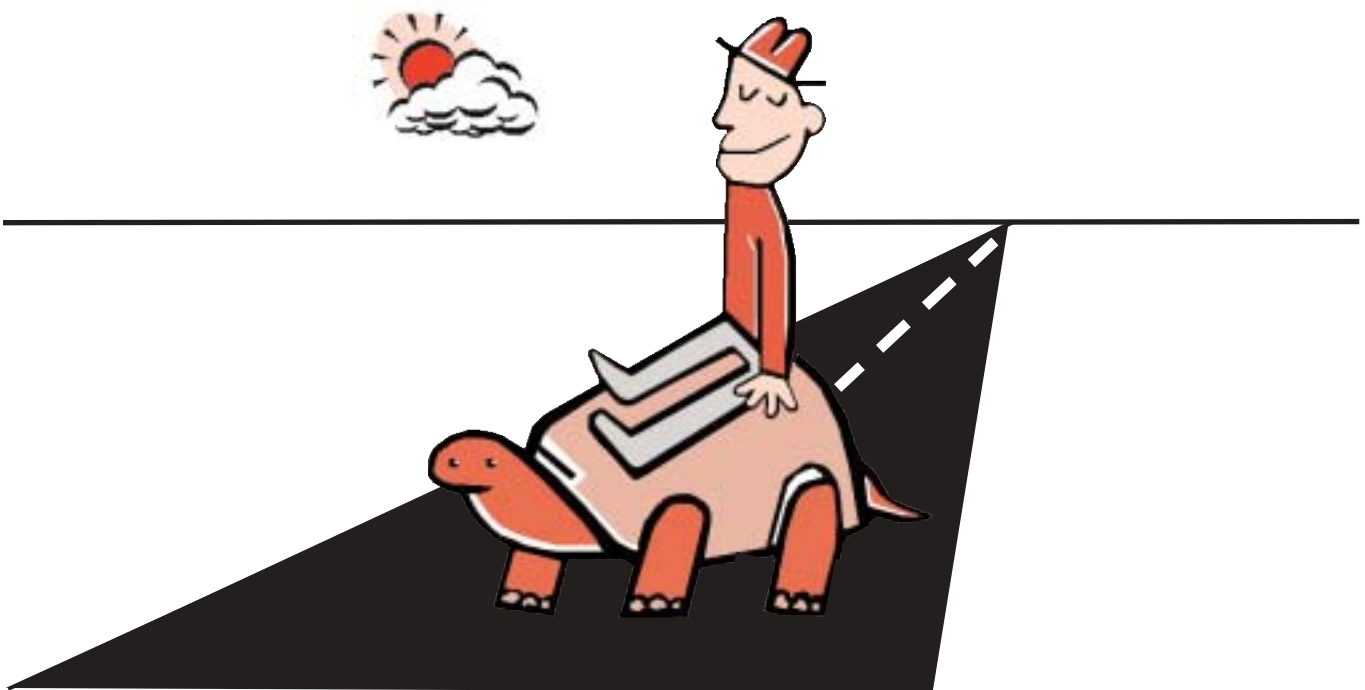
**Each \$530
in funding =
1 person that
has access to
transportation.**

- Over **300,000** older Virginians **do not have a driver's license**. An additional **82,000** individuals under age 60 have an impairment which limits their ability to drive, and which will remain with them as they age.
- There are **81,000** households in Virginia that **do not have a car**.
- In a 1996 survey of rural transportation, Virginia ranked **49th** out of 50 states.
- The federal Older Americans Act (OAA) encourages every local Area Agency on Aging (AAA) to provide transportation to eligible persons age 60 or older. Each AAA **must decide** how much of their funds to use for transportation, as well as for other OAA-required services such as home delivered and congregate meals, legal assistance, in-home services, etc.
- In July 2003, Virginia's local AAAs reported an annual **unmet demand** for transportation services of **195,984** trips.
- In 1993 and 1997, every Disability Services Board from Alexandria to Big Stone Gap listed **transportation** as a **major need for the disabled community**, many of whom are older individuals.

Transportation

- VDOT normally replaces its passenger vehicles after **95,000** miles of service to avoid increased maintenance costs. The federal government replaces its vehicles after **65,000** miles for the same reason. More than **60** of the **vans** operated by Virginia's AAAs have been driven **more than 100,000 miles**.
- Older Virginians need transportation to obtain health care and other vital services to **remain independent in their homes and communities**. Local AAAs cannot meet the present need for transportation services - a need that is growing rapidly. Vehicles currently in use must be replaced, and other funding sources are exceedingly limited.

Recommendation: Provide an additional \$1,250,000 in VITAL General Funds for use in funding transportation services.



Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program

Each \$50,000 cut in funding = 2,000 fewer long-term care recipients who have access to an ombudsman.



- The federal Older Americans Act (OAA) **requires** that each state have a Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program as **a condition for funding**.
- Local ombudsmen educate older Virginians, their families and caregivers about the Commonwealth's long-term care service system. They **help resolve complaints about services** provided by a nursing home or community-based service provider.
- Virginia's ombudsmen are **mandated** to address the needs of the elderly receiving long-term care while residing in the community, as well as those residing in nursing homes and assisted living facilities.
- The Institute of Medicine's (IoM) **standard** is **one** ombudsman for every **2,000 long-term care beds**. **Virginia averages** approximately **one** ombudsman to every **3,985** beds - **just over one-half of the recommended level of coverage to operate an effective program**. Even this large disparity does not completely reflect the full scope of the problem.

Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program

- In Virginia, among the 19 local ombudsman programs that cover the state, **only 10 people are employed full-time as ombudsmen**. An additional **14.7 FTEs** (full-time equivalents) are needed to bring Virginia's ombudsman program up to the loM standard.
- As the aging population continues to expand, the number of **requests for assistance** from individuals involved with Virginia's long-term care system **will continue to increase**.
- Because they are locally based, the ombudsmen are familiar with the long-term care providers in their communities, and **can respond quickly** to requests for information and assistance, or to resolve complaints or concerns raised by older individuals, their families or care providers.

Recommendation: Allocate an additional \$1,500,000 in CRUCIAL General Funds for the biennium (\$750,000 per year) so that all local Ombudsman programs can employ sufficient numbers of staff to serve the long-term care clients in their community.



Study the Impact of Virginia's Growing Aging Population on all State Agencies

What will it be like to live in Virginia twenty-five years from now?

Will you, as an older citizen, be able to receive the services you need?

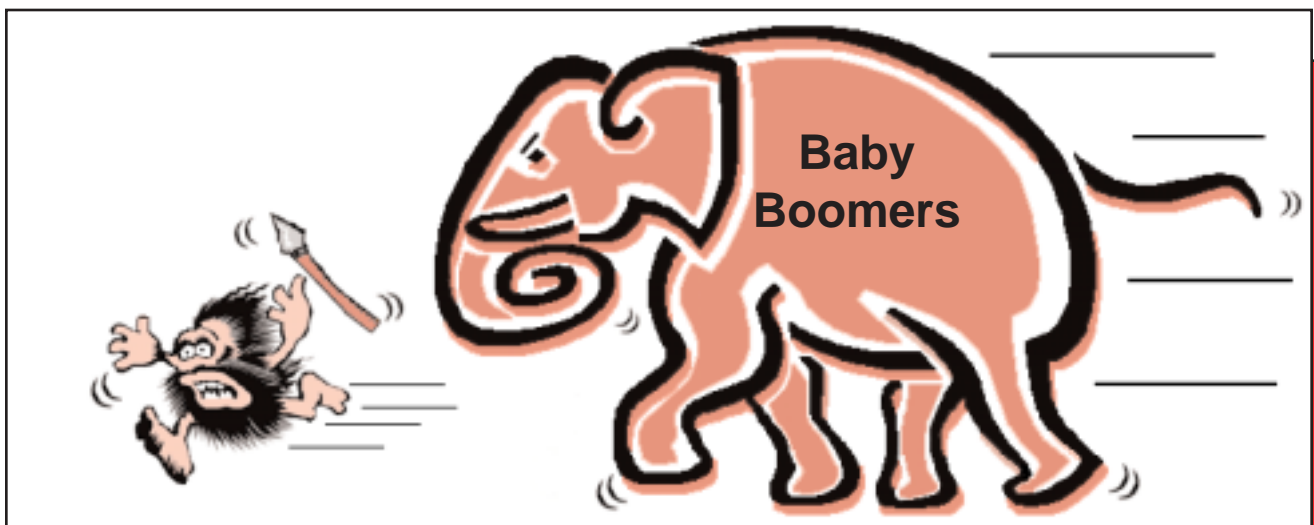


- The ranks of aging **Baby Boomers**, individuals born between 1946 and 1964, continue to swell. In **2002**, approximately **31.1% of Virginia's population was composed of Boomers**.
- By **2030**, people **age 60 and older** will make up **25%** of the state's population, or **1 out of every 4** people. The group of individuals age **85 and older** will **grow five times faster** than the total population.
- The Virginia General Assembly should require that all state agencies **study the impact that the Commonwealth's growing older population will have on its services in the future**. The study should answer the question "Are we ready for the impact that the aging Baby Boomers will have on our programs and services? If not, what do we need to do to become prepared?"

Study the Impact of Virginia's Growing Aging Population on all State Agencies

- **State agency directors** should look at their agency's policies and program management in light of Virginia's changing demographics. The directors should be charged with working **independently and collaboratively** to explore the impact of aging on service types and delivery methods.
- The study should begin **July 1, 2004** with an interim report due to the Governor and General Assembly by **January 2005**.
- The final study report should be prepared by the **Virginia Department for the Aging** with support from the **Commonwealth Council on Aging**.
- The final study report, including recommendations, should be presented at the **2005 Governor's Conference on Aging**.

Recommendation: Appropriate the necessary funds to conduct an **ESSENTIAL STUDY** of the impact of Virginia's growing aging population on all state agencies.



Additional Items Supported by the Council

The Commonwealth Council on Aging also supports the following initiatives:

- Inclusion of **basic accessibility design features** in the construction of **new single family homes** receiving state and federal funding. The addition of these **"visitability"** features will help older Virginians remain in their own homes without becoming isolated from their communities.
- **Restoration of \$75,000** in funding that was cut from the budget of the **Virginia Center on Aging** at Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU). This cut had a particularly damaging effect on the "Alzheimer's and Related Diseases Research Award Fund," which the Center believes is the most productive "seed grant" program for dementia research in the country.
- Creation of a **"Virtual Virginia Comprehensive Center on Alzheimer's Disease"** that will attract venture capital, major grants and contracts. It will also help acquire additional research and development resources for Virginia's universities and research institutions. The virtual center, when fully established, will integrate all relevant programs, services and research-to-bedside activities to leverage as much added value from existing resources as possible. The virtual center will accelerate the process of discovering effective interventions and new methods of care to reduce disability and extend independent functioning of individuals diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease or a related dementia.
- Expansion of the **Public Guardianship Program** through the allocation of an additional **\$250,000**.

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